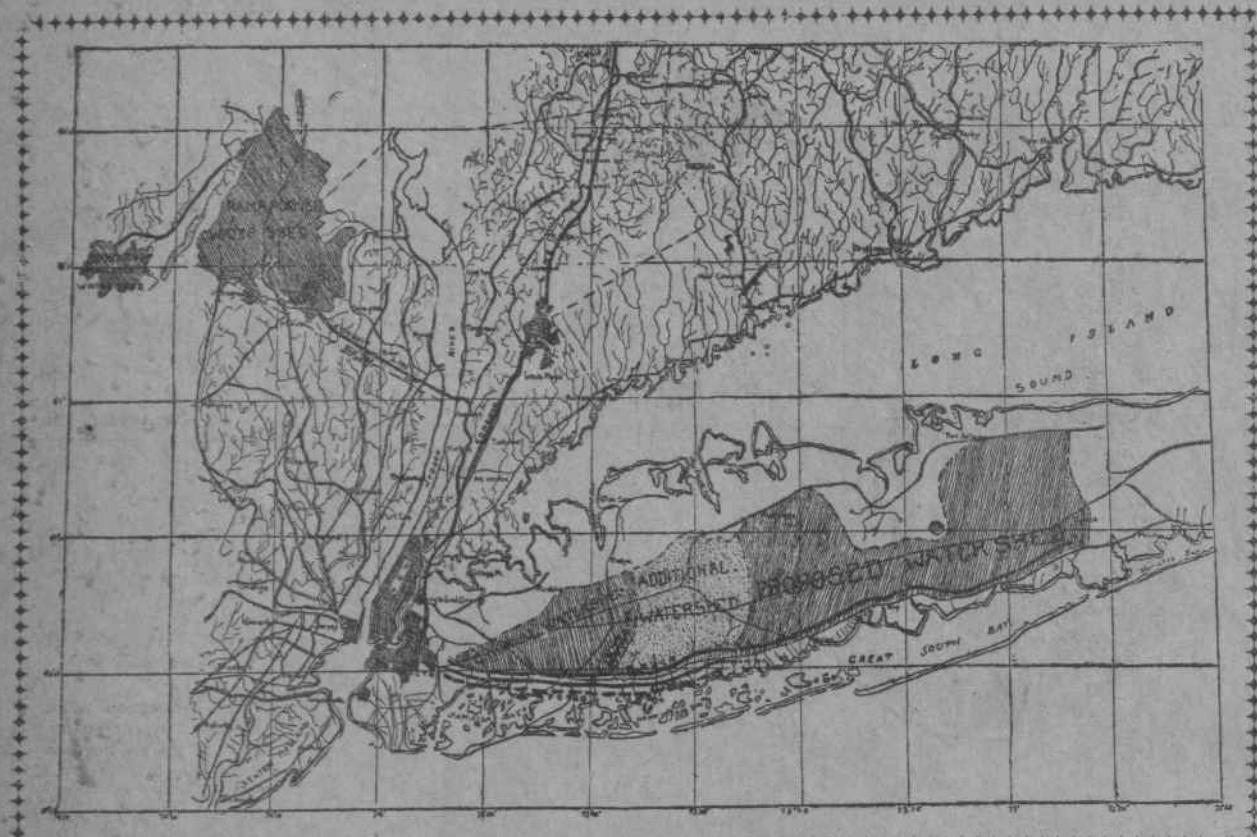


# RAMPO SCHEMETS BROOKLYN WATERWORKS.



**Ramapo's Water Shed and the Territory Closed to Brooklyn by Law.**  
Now that Brooklyn is in serious need of more water, there is hidden opposition to the simple plan of relieving the strain on the present conduits by building another pipe from Ridgewood to Hempstead. Meanwhile the Ramapo scheme is being brought to the fore again. The possibility of Brooklyn turning to Suffolk County, the eastern end of Long Island, for water has been cut off by a law quietly passed in Albany. The repeal of this law is also presumptively forbidden by a section slipped into the New York charter.

## Subtle Influences Oppose the Simple Plan of Building a New Conduit from Ridgewood to Hempstead and Cause the Enactment of a Law Closing Suffolk County as a Source of Water Supply.

The sinister influence of the Ramapo Water Company is now credited with preventing the Borough of Brooklyn from securing a much needed extension of its present water supply. The Journal has investigated the causes of the threatened water famine in the sister borough and now discloses the fact that a secret and powerful hand has hindered what experts declare is the logical solution of the problem.

Engineers who have studied the situation carefully declare that the building of an additional pipe from the Ridgewood reservoir to that of Hempstead at an estimated cost of \$1,200,000 would avert any calamity arising from lack of water.

Hidden influences in the Brooklyn City Council during its existence antagonized the construction of that pipe and compelled the discussion of the Ramapo plan. Agencies in Albany secretly obtained the passage of a law preventing Brooklyn from looking to Suffolk County as a watershed.

**Limit of Brooklyn Supply.**  
More than a dozen years ago it became manifest that Brooklyn had reached the limit of existing water supply, and was in pressing need of more liberal provision. The agitation of the subject at that time brought out the fact that, although the conduits through which the water was brought to the city were sorely taxed, sufficient supply of water was available and readily procurable at the very modest cost of increasing these conduits.

One of the first steps taken in the matter was the original design to carry 50,000,000 gallons of water daily, had been compelled to convey 70,000,000 gallons, which meant the verge of bursting a calamity which would have precipitated a water famine indeed, since old Brooklyn had absolutely no other resource for water. The Ridgewood system, in this emergency a pipe line was laid parallel with the brick conduit, having a carrying capacity of 25,000,000 gallons daily, thus increasing the available supply to 75,000,000 gallons at the normal capacity of the conduits, or 95,000,000 should the old brick conduit be again pressed into the contract limit and made to carry 70,000,000 gallons daily, as before.

Very well, Brooklyn has kept on growing through these years and increasing in population, and consequently in its water requirements. It is now consuming between ninety millions and one hundred millions of gallons daily. At times

# DARING ESCAPE OF BARRACONVALS. PLATT ORDERS DEPUTY SHERIFFS TO BE SCALPED.

**Fled Down an Iron Ladder from the Harlem Hospital.**  
Task Said to Be Intrusted to G. C. Austin in the Twenty-first.

Two invalid boys were recently transferred from the House of Refuge on Randall's Island to the Harlem Hospital. One was suffering from a broken arm and the other from such a severe case of hernia that an operation was necessary.

Thomas Phillips and Frank David were the names of the boys, and each was fourteen years of age. The Phillips had been broken his arm in a daring attempt to escape from the Randall's Island institution. It was generally supposed that the accident had befriended him against the business of trying to break jail, and the other boy was supposed to be too weak to leave his bed.

The boys had adjoining cots. They were released last evening by the doctors while the building was crowded with visitors. On the third floor an open window and a quantity of hospital bedclothing in a room occupied by one of the doctors gave the clue. The boys had climbed the stairs, entered the room, opened the window and slipped down the fire escape. The journey was fraught with great danger to both boys. Nearly twenty feet from the ground, the escape was made. The boys were seen by the police, but they were not taken into custody. The boys were seen by the police, but they were not taken into custody.

**\$10,000 Fire in Wooster Street.**  
The stock of the Boston Waist Company, on the fourth floor of the seven-story brick building, No. 119 Wooster street, was damaged by the extent of \$10,000 last night. The cause of the fire was not ascertained. The cause of the fire was not ascertained.

# MORGAN PREPARES TO SUE NICARAGUA.

**Senate Committee Will Meet This Week to Agree Upon a Plan of Action--No Delay After Holidays.**  
Cragin-Eyre Syndicate Concession to Be Cancelled and That of the Maritime Company Will Be Restored.

Agents of the Transcontinental Railroads Are Already on Hand to Oppose the Proposed Legislation.

Washington, Dec. 17.—News has been received in Washington that the concession of the Nicaragua Government to the Cragin-Eyre-Grace syndicate is to be cancelled and that the Nicaragua Government intends to extend the life of the Maritime Canal Company.

The United States Government has made representations to the Nicaragua Government that this extension should be granted. When this is done it will permit a continuance of the plan suggested in Senator Morgan's bill in the last Congress for the construction of the canal by the United States through the instrumentality of the Maritime Canal corporation.

The Cragin-Eyre-Grace syndicate, which obtained a concession from Nicaragua to begin after the concession of the Maritime Canal Company had lapsed, desired to take the place of the Maritime Canal Company and receive the profits that would accrue through this Government's assumption of the work.

The syndicate, however, failed to secure a concession from Costa Rica, through whose territory the completion of the canal runs. Costa Rica declines to give the syndicate a concession, and its privileges are, therefore, of little value.

**Canal Bill Will Be Passed.**  
An effort will be made during this Congress to put through the bill, the passage of which was frustrated last year by the lobbyists of the transcontinental railroads. It will be again antagonized by these interests, and the men who secured delay through the appointment of the Senate Committee on the subject.

A prominent member of the committee was assured that no obstacles would be interposed by the Nicaragua Government to the prosecution of the work under the Maritime Canal Company's concession.

The President said to the same Senator that it was his ambition to see this great work thoroughly initiated during his administration.

British interests will oppose the construction of this canal and delay it as much as possible. Not only will there be British opposition to the canal, but also British capital interested in two projected isthmian railroads.

**Another element of opposition is the Panama Canal, a French corporation, and the Panama Railroad, from Panama to Aspinwall. This road is now controlled under a lease by C. P. Huntington, of the Southern Pacific.**

Huntington and the representatives of the other transcontinental railroads already have their agents in Washington talking against the canal. They are also blockading proposed legislation. The construction of the isthmian canal would reduce the value of the stock of these roads. Their stock represents the interests at stake as follows:

Atchafalaya, Topoka & Santa Fe	\$102,000,000
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These figures show that interests aggregating more than three quarters of a billion dollars will fight to the bitter end against the construction of a canal.

Notwithstanding this influential opposition, the friends of the Nicaragua Canal believe it will become a law, and they will press it upon the attention of Congress as soon after the holidays as possible.

**EXECUTION BY BULLET AT WILLETS POINT.**  
Victim an Army Veteran, Whose Death Was Ordered by the War Department.

A case showing the ingratitude of republicans occurred at the army station at Willets Point, L. I., yesterday, when, by order of the War Department, "Jack," the oldest man in the army, was put to death by a corporal's guard.

# McKINLEY HAS EVIDENCE AGAINST 3 POLYGAMISTS.



## CURRENCY BILL WILL PASS TO-DAY.

**Roll Call on the Gold Standard Measure to Be Had in House.**  
Washington, Dec. 17.—To-morrow will mark the consummation of the Administration's plan to pass through the House a currency bill providing for the single gold standard.

Speaker Henderson is expected to announce his list of committees on Tuesday and on Wednesday Congress will adjourn for the holidays.

Several Democratic leaders have determined to accept the offer of the Republicans, and will endeavor to-morrow, before the final vote is taken on the Currency bill, to offer an amendment, providing for the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1.

Mr. Bailey, of Texas; Mr. Sulzer, of New York, and Mr. Terry, of Arkansas, will be on the floor with amendments of that character. It will require unanimous consent to present an amendment, and the Republicans know that no such consent can be obtained. There will be objections at once on the part of the Democrats from New York State, who have announced their intention of voting for the Republican bill as it stands.

"There will be only one thing voted upon to-morrow," said Mr. Overstreet, of Indiana, who has the bill in charge, "and that will be on the passage of the measure. We are surprised at the feeble efforts the Democrats have put forward through this debate and their failure to try to put in any substitute currency scheme."

"It looks very much as if the Democratic party were butting its head against a stone wall," said Representative Terry, of Arkansas, to-night, "to attempt to present an amendment to the currency bill, but there is a disposition to make one more attempt in the morning."

"It is a forlorn hope to expect to accomplish anything, because the Republicans have forced us to work under such an iron rule that no amendment can be put to a vote."

"I understand that Mr. Bailey will be on hand to propose an amendment. If there is any opportunity and Mr. Sulzer, I believe, will also try to put one in. I may also make an effort."

The Senate has no programme for the present week and the indications are that short daily sessions will be held and very little business transacted.

The President will not call the cabinet until after the recess. So far no notices of speeches on any subject have been given, and Senators generally express themselves as disposed to postpone the real business of the session until after the recess.

## MAGICIAN SHOOTS OFF A FINGER ON THE STAGE.

Henry Andree, a magician, at Proctor's Pleasure Palace, at Third avenue and Fifty-ninth street, while trying to fool a large audience last evening fooled himself and accidentally shot off a section of his left hand.

It was the same old excuse. Andree did not know the revolver was loaded. It was his first night's performance as a sleight-of-hand performer. He had just given up acting to follow in the footsteps of Hermann.

Under the name of Zanzig he was a factor at the sacred concert at the Pleasure Palace. He performed several new tricks successfully and was to wind up the entertainment with the familiar pistol and ring trick.

Andree took careful aim at a black box and pulled the trigger, but there was no explosion. In the pistol there were two barrels, in one of which he had placed six dummy rings. An ordinary percussion cap was put in place to make the report. Andree lowered the weapon to see what was the matter with it, and while examining the trigger it fell unexpectedly upon a cap on one of the barrels and discharged a charge of powder which had been for years in the chamber, and the first finger of Andree's left hand was blown off. It was not known that there was a bullet in it, but it had evidently been packed very tightly with wadding.

The audience did not understand that an accident had happened, and Zanzig stepped to the footlights and said, "I have made a mistake and shot myself." It was thought to be a part of the performance, and the announcement was greeted with cheers and laughter.

Zanzig left the stage, and Assistant Manager Butler announced that Zanzig had really injured himself seriously and would be unable to go on with his act.

Some one ran from the theatre and announced that a man had been killed on the stage. Zanzig was sent to Flower Hospital, where the finger was amputated. Zanzig will have to give up the magic art.

**AGED VETERAN THOUGHT HE WAS 100 YEARS OLD.**  
Celebrated the Event in New Haven and Was Arrested, but Soon Released.

New Haven, Dec. 17.—"I got drunk to celebrate my birthday, Your Honor," said Andrew Bradley.

Judge Dow looked over the rail at a hank patriarch who, like the Judge, wore a Grand Army badge.

"Andrew, you've been here before. How old are you?"

"Just turned a century," Judge Dow postponed the trial two hours to investigate the case. He learned that the prisoner was at least ninety years old and that he had fought in the Mexican and Civil wars.

He bore away a bullet in the side from the battle of Gettysburg, and for years hung around Custom House Square and Long Wharf after the war closed. "The lone fisherman" they called him. For ten years he has been an inmate of the Soldiers' Home at Noroton.

Recently a yearning has been growing on him to come back to New Haven. He had had home to spend his hundredth birthday, as he believes it to be. He was seen walking lonesomely about the city Friday, and that night he was picked up by the police, overcome by his loneliness and his blunders attempts to express them.

Andrew was put aboard the train last night with a ticket for Noroton. He promised Judge Dow not to celebrate again until he was a hundred years older.

**BENHAM'S LATEST BATTLE FOR LIFE.**  
Batavia's Convicted Wife Slayer Makes a New Plea.

Batavia, N. Y., Dec. 17.—W. E. Webster, attorney for Howard C. Benham, will to-morrow serve on District Attorney Randall the affidavits on which the motion for a new trial for Benham, to be made before Supreme Court Justice Hooker, in Buffalo, on December 28, will be based.

Benham, a private banker in Batavia, was convicted in August, 1897, of murdering his girl wife, Florence, by administering prussic acid.

His alleged motive was to obtain possession of her fortune, amounting to about \$50,000.

An appeal was immediately taken from the conviction on the principal ground of errors in the rulings of the court. The appeal was argued in the Court of Appeals last Summer, and recently that body handed down its decision affirming the conviction. The week of January 2 was then fixed for the electrocution of Benham in Auburn Prison, where he has been confined since his conviction.

At the time Benham was arraigned for re-sentencing Attorney Webster announced that a motion would be made for a new trial on the ground of newly discovered evidence.

One of the affidavits to be presented is made by Benham himself. He will acknowledge that his wife's death was caused by prussic acid poisoning, but will deny that he administered the acid with murderous intent. He will allege that she took it upon the prescription of a Pennsylvania physician, who, it is alleged, has furnished the defence with convincing evidence. During the trial the defence strenuously denied that Mrs. Benham's death was caused by prussic acid, or that any traces of it were found in her body.

The motion for a new trial does not act as a stay of execution. If Justice Hooker should consider the defence's claim seriously, it is not likely that he would be able to under his decision before the time set for the electrocution. In that event the defence will put forth every effort to induce Governor Roosevelt to order the execution deferred until the Justice's decision is made.

**Suicide of Policeman's Wife.**  
Mrs. Mary E. Bonjour, wife of Daniel Bonjour, a Long Island City policeman, made the third attempt upon her life yesterday afternoon, and succeeded in committing suicide. She had long been despondent.

**A Christmas Suggestion**  
**THE PIANOLA**  
The Pianola is a piano-player by means of which any one can play the piano. It supplies perfect technique. The expression is subject to the instantaneous control of the player. Price \$250. Daily recitals morning and afternoon. You are cordially invited to attend.

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